



Community Development Block Grants

Assisting Washington's low and moderate income families by strengthening communities

Purpose

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provides federal resources through grants to the state's lower-income communities in counties with fewer than 200,000 people and cities with populations under 50,000. CDBG establishes program priorities in partnership with local communities that will improve the safety, health, and social well being of low- and moderate-income individuals and families. The state's annual CDBG award has been approximately \$18 million in recent years. Currently the program is managing 163 contracts totaling \$53.4 million.

Results and Achievements

CDBG resources provide essential funding to non-entitlement cities, towns and counties for projects such as water and wastewater infrastructure, community facilities such as community centers and head-start facilities, job creation and housing development. Non-entitlement jurisdictions have access to CDBG funds through the Washington State CDBG Program as opposed to entitlement jurisdictions, which receive funds directly from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. All projects primarily benefit low- and moderate-income people or households and contribute to community vitality through projects that solve critical health and safety issues, provide essential social services and create and retain jobs.

Current projects include:

- ◆ A \$500,000 CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Grant awarded to Yakima County to complete a housing rehabilitation program for 22 low-income, owner-occupied units in unincorporated communities of the county
- ◆ A \$900,000 CDBG Community Investment Fund Grant awarded to Grays Harbor County to complete a 25,000 square foot Food Bank Distribution Center serving Grays Harbor and Pacific counties
- ◆ A \$750,000 CDBG General Purpose Grant awarded to the City of Pomeroy to drill a new well, construct a reservoir, and complete

Fast Facts

- ◆ Distributed more than \$260 million since 1986
- ◆ Serves 33 counties and 168 cities and towns
- ◆ Funds local government priority projects

For More Information

Steven K. Washington
Managing Director, Community
Development Programs Unit
360.725-3005
StevenW@cted.wa.gov

Nancy K. Ousley
Assistant Director
Local Government Division
360.725.3003
NancyO@cted.wa.gov

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Statutory Authority

Title 1, Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (Federal)

Services

The program provides grants to 33 eligible counties and 168 cities/towns to support a wide range of infrastructure/public facility, community facility, housing, economic development and public service projects. Eligible applicants are cities and towns with fewer than 50,000 people or counties with populations not less than 200,000 provided that the cities, towns and counties do not participate in HUD Urban County Consortiums.

CDBG staff provide technical assistance in the form of grant application and management workshops, project development facilitation, and direct guidance and tools to ensure compliance with federal requirements.

Performance Measures

All Community Development Block Grant requests are reviewed and scored using four key criteria:

- ◆ Need
- ◆ Capacity
- ◆ Readiness
- ◆ Results

An increase in the average need-capacity-readiness-results (NCRR) score indicates that funding is being targeted to community projects where the funding is needed the most, where capacity exists to support successful implementation, where the community is ready to implement the project and where the results will be commensurate with the amount of CDBG funds requested. A higher average composite score is a proxy measure for a “high return on investment” of these funds.

CDBG’s performance objective is to increase the average composite score of funded projects to 85 (baseline of 76 is average for previous three years).

An additional performance measure include:

- ◆ Shorten the length of time taken to move a grant application from contract execution to completion from 3.2 to two years